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Written Testimony in SUPPORT of Bill 69, Relating to Public Transit

I am a frequent user of TheBus, and have been a monthly TheBus card holder for years. I am car free, and make my way around the city using TheBus, in addition to biking, walking, and occasionally using taxis. This weekend, in fact, I was disappointed when a bus that should have been at least every half hour took 40 minutes to arrive. We have room for improvement, and many solid points have already been made as to why supporting Bill 69 is the right thing to do. The issue that bothers me is that the City and County of Honolulu is restricting itself from doing what's already legal on any other buses or vehicle.

Bill 69 doesn't even give go as far to give parity to what other individuals or businesses can do. I know the situation is more complicated than how I explained it, but why should the City and County restrict itself, especially when the net value is clearly for the public good?

If advertisement in the public space is the real issue against Bill 69, as it has been brought up before, that should be addressed separately, and in a manner where the public, local businesses, and the City and County have more equal and fair environmental advertising standards amongst each other. Personally, I would also agree that in a perfect world there would be no advertisements in the public space. Today, however, funding and expanding TheBus, including methods that are legal for everyone else, should be the paramount priority. And Bill 69 doesn't even go to that length.

Mahalo for considering my testimony.

Aloha,

Aaron Landry